

Copper Flat Copper Mine DEIS comment

4 April 2016

Dear Mr. Haywood:

My wife and I cannot understand how the BLM can justify permitting Copper Flat Mine to operate along NM State Hwy. 152. It has been one of our nation's most scenic and popular bicycle touring byways for decades with the number of cyclists increasing annually. We know, because we, too are bicyclists and house many of the touring ones as they ride through Hillsboro on their way east or west.

Adding to bicycling activity on Hwy. 152 is the five stage international Tour of the Gila which attracts over 600 cyclists and support groups annually.

Highway 152 at Hillsboro and Kingston is the scene of another annual bike racing event sponsored by Zia Velo Collegiate Racing Team from Las Cruces. Over 200 cyclists compete, with nearly as many supporters.

These races generate months of training-time for competitors and residing on a national cycling byway, we in Hillsboro are avid supporters of the sport.

Copper Flat Mine would cause a serious traffic bottleneck a few miles down the highway. And all the trucks necessary to remove mining materials would be a serious threat to cyclists touring our beautiful byway.

Sincerely,

R.Wm. and Nolan Winkler

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